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Historic house of famous historian Sir William Dugdale opening to public for first time in 400 years

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Full Story on page 6

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Our main aim is to provide hyper-local news and information to the community where it would otherwise not be accessible. We also offer the most effective platform for local businesses to promote themselves to their target audience. This benefits the entire community and improves social-cohesion.

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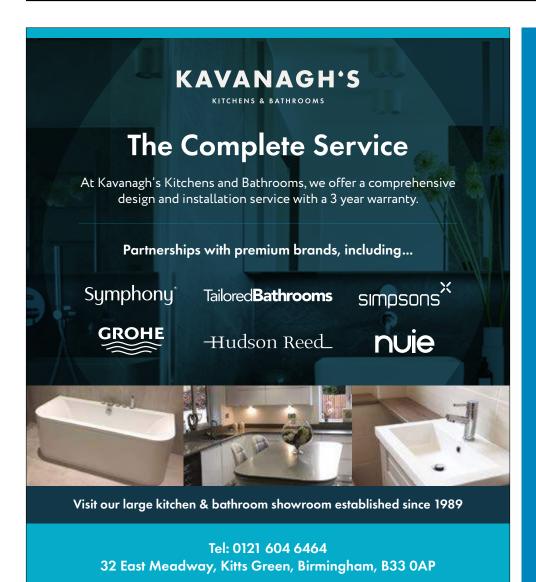
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This is an upsetting scenario... and unfortunately, it could happen to any of us without the right protection.

The sad truth is that around 200,000 family homes are sold every year to pay for care fees. Estates are drastically reduced-sometimes to nothing at all- to pay for care, leaving beneficiaries with little to no inheritance. The lower limit for care fee means testing is currently set at £14,250. However, your loved ones' inheritance could be even less than this simply because the home and other assets were not protected in the right way.

Don't leave your home open to any

All of this can be avoided- with careful planning and professional advice, you can protect your home and savings so that your children can benefit as much as possible. Putting yourself in control means you'll prevent government authorities and other parties getting their hands on your assets.



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This plan of action is applicable even if you have a mortgage!

Future stress and heartache for your family and beneficiaries can be avoided, but you must act sooner rather than later. If you fall ill and require permanent care, or if you unfortunately lose mental capacity for any reason, it will be too late to protect your home and

Act now!

Sadly, many people put off planning for the future until its too late, leaving children and loved ones devastated to realise that the situation could have been easily avoided. The sooner planning is put into effect, the more effectively we can help you ensure that your assets go to those you love ... not those you don't!

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Heart of England Singers Summer Concert at Digbeth in the Field

By Stephen Record

On a chilly but dry summers evening we were treated to an archetypal British concert by the renowned Heart of England Singers conducted by Michelle Norton and accompanied by Ruth Low to an appreciative audience.

The programme started with 'Songs and Sonnets' by William Shakespeare where seven sonnets from an eclectic mix such as The Twelfth Night, As You Like It, Love's Labour Lost, Merry Wives of Windsor etc. with music by Sir George Gershwin set the tone for a relaxed listening evening.

We were soon all humming along to what followed next which was variously In the Still of the Night by Cole Porter, Isn't This A Lovely Day by Irving Berlin, Moon River By Joe Mercer and the nostalgic The Way You Look Tonight by Jerome Kern. Ruth Low on piano was joined by Frederick Dal on drums from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire giving a gorgeous laid back brush syncopation to the pieces.

Karen Moulton and Michelle Norton stunned us with a marvellous rendition of The Flower Duet by Leo Delibes to rapturous applause before a quartet of the men's section made up of Dave Abbot, Paul Ellender, Derek Davis and Bill Russel had us all rolling in the aisles with a take on the Fishermen's Friends rendition of Sloop John B and John Kanaka complete with props.



As Long As I have Music and Flying Free, both by Don Besig highlighted the verbal and musical dexterity of the choir to fine affect.

Ruth Low, the accompanist, treated to audience to a beautiful rendition of Summertime on the Piano which was perfect for the long summers night we enjoyed.

The programme finished with the hauntingly beautiful I Am A Small Part Of The World by Sally Albrecht and Jay Althouse featuring Melanie Coton singing the solo parts which brought a tear to everyone's eye.

The choir president, Margaret Croucher, made a brief speech and presentation of a lovely bouquet of flowers to Karen Moulton – Secretary, on behalf of the choir for all

her hard work and dedication to the choir.

Two further presentations of flowers were made by Stephen and Sheila Record to both Michelle (Chelle) Norton and Ruth Low for their superb performances.

The audience were then treated to Pimms, Sparkling wine and delicious homemade cakes.

The Choir are always looking for new members. Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings at the Baptist Free Church, Marston Green B37 7DE, no auditions required and just a love of singing is the requirement.

Have a look on the website www.heart-of-england-singers.org.uk.



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Historic house of famous historian Sir William Dugdale opening to public for first time in 400 years



By Sally Jones

Sir William Dugdale, the 17th century scholar and landowner from Shustoke, near Birmingham, is arguably the greatest historian of his era. His 1656 classic 'Antiquities of Warwickshire' is widely regarded as the model for the birth of modern history writing.

Now a member of the current generation, the latest in a long line of William Dugdales, has inherited his namesake's old estate, Blyth Hall on the River Blythe near Coleshill and is opening it, for the first time in its history, as a gracious venue for events, conferences, house parties, meetings and historical tours to help fund its upkeep.

The latest William, 31, widely known as Will, is the twelfth generation of the family to live there. He studied history at Manchester University and is fascinated by his family's distinguished legacy and their four centuries at Blyth. The elder son of Sir (William) Matthew Dugdale and grandson of the colourful war hero, businessman and Aston Villa Chairman who was officially Sir William Dugdale but always known as Bill, Will grew up at the family's other estate Merevale Hall near Atherstone - unkindly voted the second-ugliest Victorian house in England in a poll for the BBC show 'Blot on the Landscape'. However he spent some of his childhood at Blyth where Sir Bill, the longstanding chairman of the Severn Trent Water Authority, and his second wife Cylla, neé Mount, David Cameron's aunt, lived throughout their marriage.

"I grew up living at Merevale which was Gothic, loud and full of estate business," remembered Will. "Blyth was totally serene and relaxing, by comparison, the historic heart of the estate, set in lush parkland by the dreamy river. I always loved the hearty, fattening Christmasses there, sitting next to my "Pa" (Grandpa) at his end of the long dining table as he joked with me in his gravelly voice. Aston Villa was and

is an obsession of ours and there were mementos around the house from his time as Club Chairman. He would take me to Villa games, which was a real thrill.

His second wife, Cylla, kept a beautiful garden which I'm now slowly restoring. As kids we loved playing Pooh-sticks on the river and watching the family of swans which nest there year after year, like my father and his sisters did when they were kids "

Since Cylla's death five years ago, the house has been refurbished sympathetically in colourful but traditional style by Will's aunt Tilly, wife of the renowned country house artist Marcus May. A 17th century portrait of the original owner dominates the dining room, with pictures of other prominent family members in the drawing room

"My historian ancestor William Dugdale bought Blyth Hall in 1625 so next year marks the 400th anniversary of our family's ownership," explained Will showing me into the bright, reception rooms, "In those days it was little more than a farmhouse with land around it, but he remodelled it and added a new wing. A red sandstone chimney stack facing the river shows the date 1629 - when the chimney was built to heat the new wing. Then William's son John made more changes in the 1690s, making the hall lighter and more welcoming.

William's father, also called John, lived in Shustoke opposite the church and he'd tutored a member of the local gentry, William was bright and well-educated which helped to develop his interest in history and antiquities. He became a wellknown historian and during the English Civil War in the 1660s, as part of Charles I's court in Oxford, he used the Bodleian Library to study history and antiquities. He was made a junior herald in the College of Arms, working on genealogy and heraldic coats of arms. Even under Oliver Cromwell after Charles's execution in 1646. William's research was considered so important he was allowed to keep working while under

house arrest and living quietly at Blyth. He later became the highest-ranked herald in the land, the Garter Principal King of Arms and was knighted for his loyalty.

Our family has always got involved in local activities – business, politics, charities, sport, you name it. In 1832, another ancestor also William Dugdale, stood for Parliament as a Tory and appeared at the rowdy hustings in Coleshill where a mob was gathering to rough him up. He wrote funnily in his diary about how 'an immense number of persons of the lower order was marched in from Birmingham and Nuneaton in order to crush poor me – however in vain. By quietness and composure I at length obtained a hearing at the day of nomination and parted upon very good terms with the assembled multitude.' He was elected and served as MP for North Warwickshire for the next 15

The family owned Baddesley Colliery in North Warwickshire and my greatgrandfather – also William Dugdale – was made a baronet in 1936 for his service as Chairman of Warwickshire County Council. He expanded the colliery, even though his own father had been horribly burned in a terrible mine explosion there in 1882. He'd bravely gone down the shaft with the mine overseer to try to rescue dozens of miners

trapped underground in the first blast but he was caught in a second explosion and died of his burns nine days later. My greatgrandfather inherited the estate when he was only 9 and said he never forgot the screams.

"So what now? My job is to bring Blyth into the 21st century and make it pay its way. We're just a few miles from the airport, the NEC and Birmingham City Centre but in the heart of the country. It's perfect for weekend house parties, conferences, meetings, dinners, or wedding parties from venues like Shustoke Barn close to Blyth. Guests can use it like their own house and some say it feels like living in a Jane Austen novel – though with nice bathrooms and plumbing that works!

We recently hosted my aunt Laura's 70th

birthday party here – in a big marquee in the park with a converted double decker bus inside as a quirky bar beside the dancefloor. I enjoy living on the estate but I don't yet have a family of my own, so I'd rather rattle around the house on my own. That's why opening Blyth up makes sense, so many more people can experience it

 and I really love seeing the place full of people enjoying themselves."
 For more information on Blyth Hall and estate, its history and details of events

there: www.blyth-hall.co.uk/



Engraving of the historian and antiquarian Sir William Dugdale – mid-17th century



the new netr will Dugadie in the newly-decorated reception rooms



Sir Bill Dugdale with his grandchildren around 2007. Will Dugdale is the little boy, far right on the front row



Blyth Hall from the River Blythe



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2024 The Coleshill School results A Level, Level 3 BTEC and Technical qualification



On August 15th we welcomed back our Year 13 students to celebrate their achievements as they collected their A Level, Level 3 BTEC and Cambridge Technical qualifications.

We are really pleased for our students as they will receive the grades which they have achieved through demonstrating high levels of determination, perseverance, and resilience. We couldn't be prouder of our students who have worked hard, been kind and taken responsibility for their academic achievements and are now moving onto their next steps. These results will now inspire our next cohort of students to achieve, be ambitious and fulfil their

Rebecca Brindley (Head of School) said "we are absolutely thrilled to see our students and staff in school today, opening and sharing their results. We are happy that the students' efforts have enabled them to achieve their results and get what they needed to get onto the next steps of their journey, which is the most important factor"

Natasha Blunt, Head of Sixth Form, said "the results this year from our year 13 Coleshill Students is a representation of the continued progress in the Sixth Form. For these students it's been 2 years of hard work, and they have achieved a great set of results across all qualifications. The students are now in a good position to be able to move on in their journey, whether that is university, an apprenticeship or employment. We would like to thank all the parents, carers and staff who have been on this journey, supporting the students."

Ian Smith-Childs (Strategic Secondary Lead) said "It has been a real privilege to watch these young people flourish through their education journey, which has had many challenges. The buzz in school today, as students opened their results, has been a real magic moment and the culmination of seven years of hard work and determination to succeed. I will be forever proud of these students and their achievements and wish them every success for their futures."

Today we celebrate the hard work, determination and resilience of our Year 13 students. We are incredibly proud of all of our students, both for their hard work academically, but also for the amazing young adults they have become. Our Year 13 students have developed their SPIRIT skills, which will enable them to go on and be successful, whichever path they chose. We now wish our students well in the next steps of their journey, whether onto university/ further education, an apprenticeship, employment or to a gap year.

On behalf of all the staff here at the Coleshill School, we are incredibly proud, and we wish all our students the very best for their future.



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Castle Bromwich Singers are looking forward to presenting their new show in a new venue this October. After 50 years in a familiar hall, we are excited to be trying new things, and our new place is Curdworth Village Hall, where we have been made very welcome.

Our show, "Weather" - is an evening of song to which we invite you to enjoy, join in with and be entertained. We sing a mixture of tunes from different eras and tempos and our show is full of wellknown songs.

Our three performances are:

Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th October. Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets cost £9.00 (under16's: £5.00) available via TicketSource.

www.ticketsource.co.uk

Refreshments are available but there is no bar so please bring your own.

Our show this year is in aid of Matt's Mission, a local charity whose aim is to 'Make Smiles Glow' and wishes come true by providing gifts to children in hospitals, special schools and hospices. Please join us at Curdworth Village Hall, Coleshill Road, Curdworth, B76 9HH.

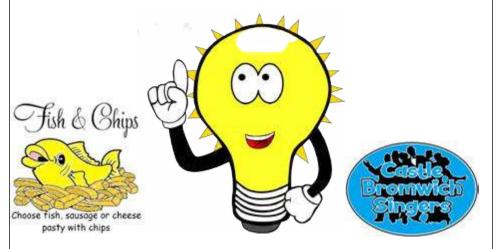
All other details are in the poster.

Also shown is a poster with details of our forthcoming quiz. Please ring Stella or Greg to order tickets and order your fish and chip supers.

Castle Bromwich Singers look forward to welcoming you to our events.

CASTLE BROMWICH SINGERS SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2024

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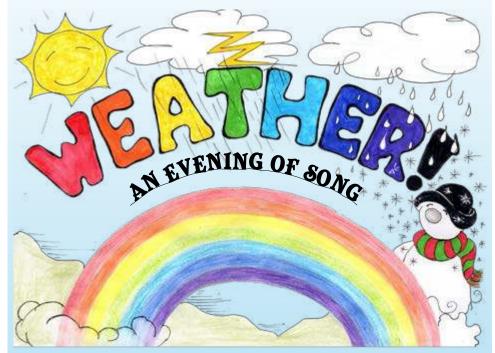
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Gastle Bromwich Singers Present



Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th October 2024 (doors open 19:00, show starts 19:30)

* New Venue * Curdworth Village Hall, Coleshill Road, Curdworth, B76 9HH



Tickets available from TicketSource, Greg $(07951\ 562\ 907)$, or Stella, $(0121\ 748\ 7635)$, and on the door

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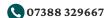
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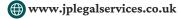
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Water Orton Parish Church

As a parish we look to be welcoming to new people and there is little in the way of expectations. So whether you have been to church before or never you are welcome. You will be made to feel welcome. You don't even have to be a Christian, though it would be helpful if you had an enquiring mind and wanted to know more.

On the 4th August we held a baptism service, for three people. One of them commented that she wished to follow Jesus and another that she had come to understand that she is loved by God.



We have two Services on a Sunday to cater for people's preferences. At 9 a.m. every Sunday we have a more formal sung Service of Holy Communion (for approximately one hour) and later at 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship led by the Worship Group, with clergy involved. (N.B. contemporary Worship songs are sung with drums and guitars etc).

There will always be someone at the door to welcome you.



The Coleshill Hub and Warm/ Community Room kindly had a visit from our local MP Rachel Taylor. Here are her thoughts from her Facebook page.







I had the privilege of visiting the Warm Room in Coleshill Town Hall today. Meeting with the local community and finding out how much this group has helped them socialise and bring them together. Such amazing volunteers who help keep this group running even organising trips for everyone, to get them out and about. Groups like these are so important for many people especially those living on their own. If you would like to go along or volunteer, they are open Tuesday to Thursday 10am to 1pm at the Coleshill Town Hall. Alternatively call Coleshill Town Council on 01675 463326 or email helen@coleshilltowncouncil.gov.uk and they can guide you to them.

It was great to chat with the Warwickshire Fire Service who were at the Warm Room providing advice on Fire Safety.

I was also able to pop in to thank the volunteers at the Coleshill Hub 01675 462517 for the work they do providing information and assistance.

I'm looking forward to my surgery in Coleshill on 27th September.'









Castle Bromwich Parish Council News



What's on this September

We have a variety of events planned this month with one being outside. Arden Hall will be holding its very first car boot sale on Friday 13th September in the rear carpark next to the tennis courts. To reserve a pitch a payment of £10, must be received at the front office of Arden Hall . Cash or card are accepted. Check out our website for further details or call 0121 747 7150.

Heritage Day

Every September, thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture, all of which are free to explore. Arden Hall will be opening its doors on Sunday September 15th, between 11:00 a.m. and 14:00 p.m. to showcase the local history of the area.

Many volunteers from local organisations will be attending, like Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens, neighbouring history societies, and local residents sharing their memories and photographs. Arden Hall will be exhibiting the council's archives and showcasing the building from the first brick to the celebration of the hall being opened in October 1965.

Come and join us for a ride back into history and chat over a cuppa and cake. If you have any photographs of the area, please bring them in and we can provide a table to exhibit.

Heritage Open Days 2024 - 6th-15th September and many historic buildings are free to attend. Use the following to search to find events throughout the UK https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/

History of Arden Hall

The Community and Leisure Officer is currently researching the building of Arden Hall. Janine has some photographs of the work taking place and the basic minutes of the parish council from pre-Arden Hall to when it was built and opened in October 1965.

If anyone has any information on why the hall was built, who funded it, and whether residents paid sixpence a month to help raise funds, please email leisure@ castlebromwichpc.gov.uk or pop in to chat with her on the coffee mornings held every Thursday from 10.00am—12:00 noon, Spencer Lounge, rear of Arden Hall.

Let's do Coffee!

It's back! Our Macmillan Coffee Morning is in the main hall on Saturday, September 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 13:00 p.m. Cancer is not going anywhere, and Macmillan is needed now more than ever. There are around 3 million people living with cancer in the UK today, and more than 360,000 are diagnosed every year.

Every little helpes, so come and enjoy a cake with a cuppa or ground coffee from our new machine, what is not to like and indulge in? Macmillan's work is funded by many projects, and Castle Bromwich Parish Council will endeavour to help this charity with our coffee morning and raffle.

This year local clubs and societies will be showcasing what is on offer for all to join. These are not just at Arden Hall but around the area. Loads of information to take away and many clubs to join.

Fashion show with an afternoon tea

Our fashion show is back again but with a difference. An afternoon tea will be served in the Spencer Lounge between 12:00pm – 14:00pm before the show starts at 14:30pm. All garments are new and some are still in season from High Street stores and Designer outfits. There are two tickets prices, £5 show only or £15 for show and afternoon tea per person, so please book early as we sold out very quicky last year.

To find more information on events at Arden Hall, please check out our large event notice board next to the entrance to Arden Hall, attend our coffee mornings every Thursday between 10:00 and 12:00 and visit our socials, web page and Facebook group.

Contact us for events or hall hire on:

Telephone: 0121 747 7150

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/castlebromwichpc.gov.uk/

Email: ardenhall@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk **Webpage:** https://castlebromwichpc.gov.uk/

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

- Are you passionate about your community?
- Do you want to help make a long-lasting change?
- Do you have innovative ideas for the council?
- Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it?

If this is you, then we need you at Castle Bromwich Parish Council. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for election. Make a change and become a councillor.

What do local councils and councillors do?

Parish councils and councillors make a massive difference to local people's quality of life. They are the first tier of governance and are the first point of contact for anyone concerned with a community issue. They are also passionate about their communities and seek to make a change to help improve their residents' lives.

Local councils run numerous services, depending on the size of the council. Many of them you will see day-to-day, but some are less known. These include setting up community groups, organising facilities for sports, recreation, and social events, making comments on local planning applications before being submitted to SMBC, looking at traffic schemes to address congestion, parking, speeding, etc., establishing youth projects, and managing open spaces.

Councillors are elected to represent the local community, so you must either live or work in the council area. Becoming a councillor is a rewarding experience as you will be able to make a change in your community to help improve residents' lives. A councillor's role can include developing strategies and plans for the area, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with other local community groups, decision making and reviewing decisions and talking to the community about their needs and what the council is doing.

How to become a councillor

A Parish Council can only be as helpful, connected and energetic as the people elected to run them, so we need councillors capable, enthusiastic and engaged to reflect their communities. You can find out more about becoming a councillor on The Electoral Commission and Local Government Association website. There are three ways that you can become a councillor; standing for election, filling a vacant seat after an election (co-opted) or filling a casual vacancy.

We have vacancies right now.

For more information, contact Castle Bromwich Parish Council 0121 747 6503 or counciloffice@ castlebromwichpc.gov.uk or go onto YouTube to see the #makeachange video

We are recruiting for the Youth Council

The Youth Council is a group of local young people aged between 11 and 19 who represent young people's views and work towards improving things for young people in the borough.

Members of the group work with the Community & Leisure Officer, Parish Council and outside youth officers. They meet every two months on a Tuesday evening between 5pm - 6pm.

All members get involved in:

- Finding out and representing the views of young people.
- Working with and influencing decision makers.
- Running youth lead projects and campaigns.
- Helping with events at Arden Hall.

The Youth Council consists of a core committee, and the Parish Chairman, Community & Leisure Officer, and other outside youth workers/teachers contribute to the meetings.

Being a Youth Councillor is an important role and requires commitment and dedication but along the way you will:

- Have the opportunity to have your voice heard and help make a positive change.
- Acquire new skills through experiences and training.
- Meet lots of different people and make new friends.
- \bullet Add to your CV for school/college/university/ employment.

If you're interested in becoming a member of Youth Council, we need your interest via email at leisure@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk

For more information, contact the Parish Council on: Telephone: 0121 747 6503

Email: leisure@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk

Contact us for events or hall hire on:

Telephone: 0121 747 7150 Facebook: facebook.com/castlebromwichpc.gov.uk/ Email: ardenhall@castlebromwichpc.gov.uk Webpage: castlebromwichpc.gov.uk The Only Family Owned Funeral Directors in Castle Bromwich

Hickton Family Funeral Directors

Trevor F.W. Hickton Ltd.





About Us

Established in the Black Country in 1909, the Hickton family have been serving the community through four generations.

The business currently in its 3rd and 4th generation of ownership, identified the need for a new modern independent funeral director to serve the Birmingham and Solihull areas.

Many of the long established funeral homes in the local area have been sold to much larger corporations over the past 15 years and have no family members left involved in the business. W.H. Painter, for example, are owned by Funeral Partners, a large nationwide corporate company.

We are the only family owned funeral director in the area now

With our family ownership we feel in a position to give a much more caring service when called upon, compared to large corporate companies. We also feel we can be much more cost effective in comparison to the corporate funeral homes.

24 Hour Service in all areas

Home Visits & Arrangements

Payment Plans

DWP Social Help

Simple Low Cost Funeral Options

Private Chapels of Rest

Modern & Classic Vehicles

Professionally Trained Staff

Horse Drawn & Alternative Hearses

Pre-Paid Funeral Plans



The Basic Funeral Package £1400.00*

Including - Professional services, transfer from place of death, care of loved one, hearse, simple coffin, funeral director, bearers

The Traditional Clent Funeral Package £2350.00*

Including - Professional services, transfer of your loved one from place of death, preparation and viewing of loved one in a traditional coffin, care of loved one, hearse, one limousine, funeral director & bearers. 4ft floral coffin spray, 40 order of service booklets, ashes scatter tube, donations box and 6 bereavement support sessions.

*cost excludes cremation, burial, doctors or minister's fees

All costs are correct up until April 2021

320 Bradford Road, Castle Bromwich B36 9AD

Opposite Toby Carvery (The Bradford Arms) 24 Hour: 0121 747 7900

www.TEWHickton.co.uk



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For prices, media pack and more information Call 07805 430191 or email: serena.postgroup@outlook.com





Cllr Martin McCarthy, Castle Bromwich Ward (Solihull MBC)

September update

It's September, I'm sure that our youngsters are champing at the bit to return to their studies.

We can also look forward to the start of the annual cutting of the wildlife ways areas and some hedge trimming.

96 Bus Petition

A response to our petition calling for reinstatement of the 96 bus service has been received from the West Midlands Combined Authority. Sadly, this does not promise any action to reinstate the route or an improved alternative.

We will keep the pressure on for this as fortune favours those who keep at it. I will bring a copy of the letter to our September Surgery for anyone that would like a copy.

Road Safety

Many of you are increasingly concerned about speeding e-bikes, I have made enquiries about these.

They are governed by Section 185 Road traffic Act, and defined as follows:

Being battery propelled at no more than 15.5 MPH or less than 40KG in weight or having a power output no more than 250W. if the EAPC rules are exceeded the device becomes a motor vehicle and requires Registration, Tax, insurance and driving licence etc.

I would not consider riding one personally without some level of personal liability insurance cover or suitable protective clothing and head protection.

From a cycling perspective the Electric bikes and e-cycles advice | Cycling UK website probably has the most up to date and practical advice, but the e-bikes - Search - GOV. UK (www.gov.uk) should also be referred to as well for the latest information. I'm sure you will find the answers to these and many more questions on either of these sites.

Water Orton Road Safety upgrade

This work including a new mini-island at Green Lane has continued through August and should be complete soon, please let me know what you think of the new layout.

Roadside trees

We continue to work with SMBC forestry officers on these, funding for new ones continues to be a challenge, we are piloting a scheme to identify viable sites for these and look to match up potential funders for these.

We are now in the hedge management season once more, SMBC Parks and open spaces staff will be progressing work on some of these over the autumn/winter period.

Regular Councillor Surgery at Castle Bromwich Library

The next monthly surgery is scheduled for Monday the 2nd of September and takes place at the Library at 14:00, no appointment is required, please email, or call me if anything urgent comes up in the meantime.

Our councillor emails are martin.mccarthy@solihull.gov.uk alan.feeney@solihull.gov.uk and leslie.kaye@solihull.gov.uk





Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens

News from Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens

Whatever the weather tells us, we're embracing the change of seasons.

In September the 'Gardens of Birmingham' group are staging a Month of Wellbeing encouraging us all to use our precious green gems to improve our wellbeing. Castle Bromwich Historic Gardens makes a gentle start to the month with Peaceful Places and Spaces on Set 7th - informal activities to drop in and drop by other dates in the Wellbeing month include:

- Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Saturday 14 September, 10-4.30pm
- Martineau Gardens Saturday 21st September, 12-4pm
- Winterbourne Gardens, Saturday 28th September

All events are no cost, but may need prebooking... please look at the Gardens website for more details of all four wellbeing events

As we know September is also the month of harvest and the season of 'mellow fruitfulness'.

It might be more of an urban rather than rural experience but local foodies have really flocked to the Gardens partnership with Digbeth Dining Club excellent street food events - and theres one last one for the season ond Sunday 15th September - dont forget there are no tickets on the door... please buy them online in advance.

We're definitely embracing the natural bounty of the Gardens and Historic Parkland Nature Reserve with the heritage orchards' apple harvest, Foraging for Beginners walks and a new series of babies and toddlers sessions Tree Babies and Tree Tots...https://www.castlebromwichhallgardens.org.uk/events-calendar/. Look out too for artist Soobie Whiltfield and her project finding your stories about greenspaces and common land.. She can be sportted around the parish at the library on leafy street corners and leading walks and land art sessions on Sept 29th.







The Story of Castle Bromwich Parish Church (pt12)

By David L Adams

In the previous article I speculated on which of the Bridgeman Lords of the Manor had the concept of encasing the retained timber frame of the old chapel – rather than building a new church from "scratch".

Did this occur due to the religious significance or for the supposed economic benefits?

It is so frustrating that no clues to the motive exist. $% \left(x\right) =\left(x\right) +\left(x\right)$

Both the Sir Johns spent considerable time at the Royal Court and it is quite possible that an architect with a "modern" church design but no site may have piqued the interest of one or the other.

The preparations necessary for such a scheme as the complete replacement of a sizeable church call for a considerable exercise in logistics.

In the previously mentioned Articles of Agreement for the building of the tower, which preceded any work to the old chapel, it stated "that they (Church Wardens and Sir John Bridgeman) shall and will find and provide all and all manner of materials of what kind so ever there shall be occasion for the said building"

The assessment of, acquisition of, or arrangement for local manufacture of the standard of materials required for projects such as we are discussing, is a specialised job.

Since the acquisition of the manor in 1657, the Bridgeman family had been building "something" but it is most unlikely, given their other involvements, that they did the organisation of the construction work personally. They must have had a very capable estate steward with considerable building knowledge.

There are, in the Church Wardens' accounts for 1717, items for two purchases of bricks in quantity, 14000 in each case, one for a cost of £2.16s 0d and the other only 10 shillings and 10 pence. It is likely that in the first instance the bricks would be of "facing" quality and the others would be "commons".

On a very approximate calculation, this quantity would be sufficient for the new, classical style tower – both outer and inner wall faces. The tower walls are, in the lower storeys, in the region of three feet thick and this was built away from the existing structure and at an earlier date to allow for any settlement that may occur as the ground gradually took its loading.

In the Articles of Agreement for the building of the new tower, there is a clause requiring the builder of the new tower, Thomas Clear (alias Smith!) to complete the work within eight months. This would leave over a year for any movement in the ground. We have no knowledge of the exact date in 1726 that work started on the main church.

Clear's work included the removal of the bells (5) from the old "steeple" presumably before the actual demolition took place.

There was no mention of the rehanging of the bells, which were increased in number to six in the new tower. As the demolition of the old timbered side aisles had not yet started, there was probably no staircase in the tower as built in 1724 – certainly there is no mention of carpentry in the agreement although the floors would be

The illustration for this article shows the "stripped" timber frame being extended from the original western gable to link to the new tower. Obviously this is totally conjecture as we do not know how the frame was supported before the encasing was carried out.



News from St Clement of Alexandria Green Lane, Castle Bromwich (known locally as St Clements Church)



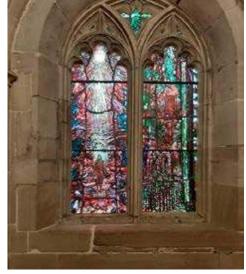
Anna Frank's quotes still have the power to inspire us today:

"I don't want to live in vain like most people. I want to be useful or bring enjoyment to all people, even those I've never met. I want to go on living even after my death!"

On the 15th July 1944, less than one month before she was arrested and sent to a concentration camp with her family Anna wrote one of her most inspiring quotes.

'I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart'

What a busy month July proved to be for St Clements. The Summer Fayre on Saturday 13th was a great success. We were able to have the bouncy castle and games outside with various stalls inside the church and "Who said putting up bunting was easy!" Our thanks go to all who helped make the day such a success and to those that came to enjoy the day and then rest those tired feet with a cuppa and a hot dog. On Saturday 20th July several members of the Church boarded a coach for our annual day out and this year the destination was Hereford Cathedral.



Hereford Cathedral is the cathedral church of the Anglican Diocese of Hereford in Hereford, England. A place of worship has existed on the site of the present building since the 8th century or earlier. Although the present building was begun in 1079, we were also shown how they have embraced the present day as these two beautiful stained glass windows show. Although the weather was a bit 'hit and miss' it was a day to remember, rich in the past and certainly showing its present heritage.

Saturday 7th September is our annual Garden Party in the Vicarage Garden, tickets went on sale at the end of July and sold out very quickly - we are hoping for a beautiful warm autumnal day otherwise we

will need to de-camp inside!!

Sunday 8th September we are joining in Heritage week and having a 60's inspired service.



St Clements was built and completed in the 60's, so from polka dots to flower power and those tunes of yesteryear, House of the Rising Sun – The Animals, I Want to Hold Your Hand by the Beatles. Pringles came onto the market, fast food became popular with the opening of McDonalds. Innesbrook was the host for the Winter Olympics in Jan/Feb 1964 and Tokyo hosted the summer Olympics in October 1964.

Although we aim to keep our groups and café open (closed bank holidays) throughout the year, due to a break-in during the week of 15 – 19th July we had to close to give us time to re-group and sort ourselves out. As a church we do NOT keep any money on our premises and what

we do have is priceless to our congregation ONLY and those that attend our groups and is of no value to anyone else but ourselves. St Clements is a church that is strong with a big heart and welcomes all through our doors, so to have this happen was a set-back but as Jesus said "Love one another as I have loved you". We have picked ourselves up. To see forensics at work and the police taking statements and our local PCSOs popping in to make sure we were all okay was really appreciated. Sometimes it's difficult to understand the reasons behind why people choose to do those things that cause such pain, but as Anna Frank said we truly do believe that

Want to know more? Just reach out – we'd love to hear from you!

Phone: 0121 274 7120

people are good at heart.

Church Website:

www.stclementschurchcb.co.uk

Facebook:

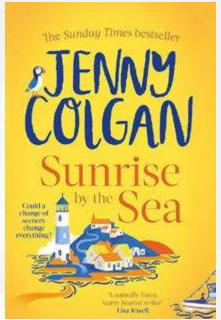
www.facebook.com/ stclementschurchcastlebromwich

office@stclementschurchcb.co.uk

Castle Bromwich Library Book Club

Sunrise by the Sea by Jenny Colgan

In a quaint seaside resort, a charming bakery holds the key to another world. Marisa Rosso is struggling. Since the death of her beloved grandfather back home in Italy, she can't seem to find a way out of her grief. So when her flatmate offers her one of his uncle's rentals on a tiny and remote tidal island off the Cornish Coast, Marisa jumps at the opportunity. Perhaps some solitude is just what she needs to combat her homesickness and rediscover her equilibrium. But Mount Polbearne is a far cry from the sleepy little place she was imagining. Between her noisy Russian piano-teaching neighbour and the hustle and bustle of a busy community, Marisa finds solitude is not



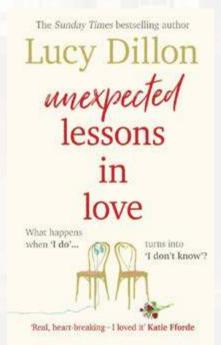
so easy to come by. Especially when she finds herself somehow involved with a tiny local bakery desperately in need of some new zest to save it.

Yet another great book by Jenny Colgan. She combines witty dialogue with a heartwarming story of overcoming personal issues and a love affair between two wonderful characters. A warm, funny and very satisfying read.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

Unexpected lessons in love by Lucy Dillon

Jeannie and Dan met online and clicked immediately. He's an ambitious young vet; she's a musician. After less than a year of long-distance dating, Dan proposed and Jeannie, swept away, said yes. The next few months were a blur of organisation and then, suddenly, Jeannie was in the car with her dad en-route to Longhampton town hall. About to change her name and start a whole new life - but with the sickening feeling that what should feel entirely right is actually completely wrong. Jeannie grabs the chance to put a stop to the proceedings. Her dad makes a call to Dan - with devastating consequences. Now Jeannie's spending her wedding night in an Intensive Care Unit, watching neurologists monitor her



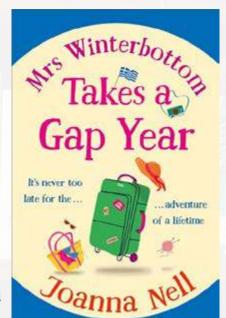
comatose fiancé. She's still wearing her wedding dress under someone's jacket. The future looks uncertain and bleak. And her conscience is gnawed by a terrible secret: this is all her fault.

This is a story about re-evaluating life, love and learning more about loved ones. Beautifully written and emotional but also heartwarming and uplifting too. It's a lovely book that I thoroughly enjoyed reading.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

Mrs Winterbottom takes a gap year by Joanna Nell

Heather Winterbottom has worked side by side with her husband as GPs in their idyllic rural practice for over forty years. But as the time comes to hang up their stethoscopes, the Winterbottoms discover that they have rather different visions of retirement. Heather dreams of exploring the Greek Islands, of escaping the shackles of her routine life and embracing an exciting new adventure. Alan dreams of growing his own vegetables. When things come to a head at a family lunch, Heather announces that she has decided to take a year off. From her old life, from her marriage - from Alan. Alone in beautiful Greece, Heather embarks on her very own odyssey - complete with peak



experiences, pitfalls, and temptations. But what if coming home is the biggest adventure yet?

This is a delightful, heartwarming, entertaining, laugh-out-loud book which I thoroughly enjoyed. A brilliant story that shows retirement isn't always what you expect. Highly recommended!

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member

Together, Again by Milly Johnson

Three sisters, all seven years apart, who are not close at all, must convene after their mum's death to arrange the funeral and pack everything up. Their mother has left the family home and most of the money to the youngest sister Annis, who she didn't get on with at all. As they pack everything up, the sisters become closer than they have ever been before as they begin to let each other into their lives for the first time.

What an amazing book! A beautifully written story full of twists and turns, family secrets and lies and moments of revelation. The characters will stay with you for a long time. This is definitely a must read book.

Review by Castle Bromwich Library member



Warwickshire Historian Dr Andrew Watkins helps launch Coleshill mayor's record fifth term at historic Blyth Hall

Susan Wallace is launching her record fifth term as Coleshill Town Mayor with a unique event - a gracious reception on Friday 18th October at one of the Midlands' most historic houses, Blyth Hall. And renowned historian of this part of the Warwickshire Arden Dr Andrew Watkins from Packington Lane, Coleshill will be lending his expertise with an atmospheric talk on the Hall itself, home to the Dugdale family for the past 400 years.

Dr Watkins, who specialises in the Medieval period in North Warwickshire, taught History at Coleshill School and Lichfield Cathedral School. He is now a Visiting Fellow at the University of Leicester's Centre for Local History, as well as organist at Shustoke Church.

He is fascinated by the impact of the family's most distinguished scion, the great historian Sir William Dugdale from Shustoke, who wrote the iconic work 'Antiquities of Warwickshire' and became a central part of King Charles I's court. Having bought Blyth Hall, then a glorified farmhouse, in 1625, Sir William and later his son John each updated and extended the house, adding a wing and making it more comfortable and spacious.

The current owner, 31-year-old Will Dugdale, grandson of former Aston Villa Chairman Sir Bill Dugdale, is the 12th generation of his family to live there. To help fund its upkeep, Will is opening the Grade I Listed Hall for the

first time, for events, conferences, house parties, meetings and historical tours, plus community gatherings like the mayoral reception. Having studied History at Manchester University, he is keen to find out more about the background to his own heritage and was intrigued during a recent tour of the Hall with Dr Watkins, to learn that in the later middle ages a village called Blyth stood on the edge of what is now the park, near the river. This was later depopulated in the first half of the 17th century.

Dr Watkins also explained how the first Sir William and then his son John introduced controversial changes in farming to boost the profits of their growing estates, allegedly driving off many of the locals and grubbing up numerous hedges. They replaced labour-intensive crop farming with sheep and cattle rearing, employing just a few herdsmen, grazing their animals on the lush, marshy meadowland beyond the existing fishponds beside the house, known as the Stews.

Want to find out more? A few tickets at £25 are still available for the Cheese and Wine Reception from Gascoignes of Coleshill, Coleshill Library and the Town Council Hub. All proceeds will go to Father Hudson's Care and the Reception will be held at 7.30pm on October 18th at Blyth Hall, Blythe Road, B46 2AF. www.blyth-hall.co.uk/





SHARE A STORY

contact: serena.postgroup@outlook.com

The Town Mayor of Coleshill Clir Sue Wallace Invites you to a Cheese and Wine Evening at Blyth Hall by kind permission of William Dugdale on Friday 18th October 2024 at 7:30pm With a talk by Coleshill Historian, Dr Andrew Watkins There will be a raffle with all proceeds to Father Hudson's Care Tickets £25 per person Dress is smart casual

Tickets available from Gascoignes of Coleshill, Coleshill Library and Coleshill Hub

Garden party to celebrate Coleshill Day Services' sensory garden



An article in the Coleshill Post sparked off a sequence of events that led to our sensory garden years to achieve without the support of Balfour Beatty being completely transformed. It mentioned HS2 support for local organisations with a meeting at the Coleshill Hub and was seen by Julia, who works at Coleshill Day Services. She brought it into Day Services and we followed up and found out we were eligible for it.

Our day service team have long dreamed of introducing a sensory garden and at last, with the help of our supporters, it is now a reality.

Through the HS2 support the main contractor Balfour Beatty Vinci came in, levelled the ground and re-laid tarmac. Before, the space had been uneven, broken and waterlogged which meant it was unsafe for many of our clients who use wheelchairs. We had been fundraising for years through table top sales and Christmas Fayres,

Vinci.

Our local community really got behind fundraising for the garden, with Twin Rivers WI choosing us as their Charity of the Year in 2023. They hosted a quiz in the packed Coleshill Town Hall and had a cake stand at our Summer Fair, raising £1843 towards the garden. We have been boosted by generous donations from local people, and those who have booked stands or attended our sales at the centre

On our opening day we were joined by many of those who had contributed, as well as family, friends and staff. We celebrated with a buffet lunch and cake, with Reza Farrell from Lily's Tea Parlour singing for us and encouraging Damian and others to sing and dance with her. Reza knew many of our clients as she used to come

in and lead exercise sessions with them and she said it was a joy to come back and see our sensory garden now. We also had Savannah walking around on stilts, dressed to match the garden as a bee or butterfly. Savannah is the sister of one of our clients and she brightened the day! It was a wonderful chance to get together, see how the garden had changed and explore the new garden.

Our clients will now be able to enjoy the outside space, engaging their senses to enjoy the garden and relax in nature. Karen McPherson, centre manager said, "All of us at day service would like to say thank you to everyone that has been involved in helping our team to fundraise, so thank you to the volunteers, to those who have donated raffle prizes for us and have purchased tables to Balfour Beatty and Tarmac for giving us a space our service users are free and safe to explore no matter their ability. Your generosity has enabled our dream to come true. You have all made a huge difference, thank you."















Karen on bike

Balfour Beatty Vinci team

Butterfly with Alex and Callum



SHARE A STORY

serena.postgroup@outlook.com



Footwear related foot issues

As we move into the wetter, cooler months our footwear begins to change from sandals to closed in shoes. It is important to ensure that we are wearing the correct footwear to prevent problems with our feet.

We always recommend a shoe with a small heel (no more than an inch) as well a shoe with a strap or a lace. A small heel will prevent painful cramping and aching in your feet and legs by taking some of the strain away from the muscles in your feet and in your legs. A strap or a lace will allow more support so that when you walk your foot is not moving around in the shoe possibly leading to rubbing or soft tissue strain. We can measure you for footwear and help you pick the correct shoe for you during your appointment with us. We can then order this in and ensure that it fits you correctly.



A shoe with a thick sole will help to insulate your feet, keeping them warming and protecting them from the cold weather. This can help to protect against conditions called chilblains. Chilblains are caused by the cold affecting the blood vessels in the skin closing them down so that the blood is diverted deeper. This causes the skin to become even colder and the waste products produced by our cells build up. This can lead to a red, painful, shiny toe which may split open.

A wide, rounded shoe with a deep toe box is important at prevent issues on the sides of your foot as well as in between your toes. Corns are hard plugs of skin which arise because of pressure. Any corns on the top of your toes can only be caused by footwear as there is no other pressure which touches this area. By wearing a wide, rounded shoe with a deep toe box it prevents pressure on the sides of your foot but also pressure from your toes being squeezed together in your shoe which over time may lead to painful corns in between your toes.



If you think you may be suffering with any of the conditions we have mentioned, or you are unsure if your current footwear is suitable, you can give us a call on 0121 749 6313 and book in to see one of our HCPC registered Podiatrists.



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For more information on how to advertise in any of our titles please call:

07805 430191 or email: editor.postgroup@outlook.com

GCSE and BTEC/Vocational Results at The Coleshill School, 2024



We are incredibly proud of our year 11 students who sat their exams and have completed their GCSEs and vocational qualifications at the Coleshill School.

In line with our school ethos, our year 11 students have worked hard and taken responsibility, developing and demonstrating high levels of determination, a commitment to their subjects and desire to achieve positive academic results.

Head of School Rebecca Brindley commented:

Today we welcome back and celebrate with our year 11 students today who are collecting their results which is the result of staff, students, parents and carers working together over 5 years. It is a privilege to work with young people to support them both academically and personally and in developing and growing into the young people that they are today. We want to wish all our student the best for their next steps into further education, apprenticeships or employment.

Deputy Headteacher Sarah Cardwell commented:

As a school we always advocate so much more than just examination outcomes, our school values of Work Hard, Be Kind and Take Responsibility are showcased through our wider curriculum offer that we continue to promote.

We are of every student who picked up their results today, many will continue their education journey with us in our Sixth Form where we will continue to nurture and advance.

$Strategic\ Secondary\ Lead\ Ian\ Smith-Childs\ commented:$

We are all incredibly proud of all of the young people who are collecting their results today. These results represent five years of hard work. This cohort of students have had to overcoming multiple challenges and have demonstrated both academic and personal growth. We wish all of our students the very best in their next destination and remind them that The Coleshill School will always be their school.







Interiors Decorating



Platinum Update - Using Whites and Light Shades in Interior Painting and Decorating

In the realm of interior design, colour plays a pivotal role in shaping the ambiance and functionality of a space. Whites and light shades, often perceived as simplistic, offer a versatile and sophisticated palette that can transform interiors in subtle yet impactful ways. This article delves into the benefits of incorporating whites and light shades into your interior painting and decorating, offering insights into their practical applications, psychological effects, and design principles.

The Appeal of Whites and Light Shades

Whites and light shades, ranging from crisp whites to soft pastels, are often favoured for their ability to create a sense of openness and tranquillity. Their understated elegance allows them to blend seamlessly with a variety of styles and furnishings, making them a popular choice for many homeowners and designers.

1. Creating a Sense of Space

One of the most celebrated advantages of using whites and light shades is their capacity to make rooms appear larger and more open. This effect is particularly beneficial in smaller spaces or rooms with limited natural light. Light colours reflect more light than darker shades, which enhances the perception of space and brightness. This principle is especially useful in compact areas such as hallways, bathrooms, and small living rooms.

2. Enhancing Natural Light

In spaces that benefit from abundant natural light, whites and light shades can amplify this asset. By reflecting natural light, these colours help to maximise the brightness of a room, contributing to a lively and airy atmosphere. In contrast, darker hues can absorb light, potentially making a room feel more enclosed and

Psychological and Aesthetic Impact

The choice of colour in interior spaces extends beyond mere aesthetics; it also affects mood and perception. Whites and light shades bring a unique set of psychological benefits.

1. Promoting Calm and Serenity

White and light shades are often associated with calmness and serenity. These colours evoke a sense of peace and tranquillity, making them ideal for bedrooms, bathrooms, and relaxation areas. The soothing quality of these shades can help reduce stress and promote a restful environment.

2. Offering a Timeless Appeal

White and light shades possess a timeless quality that ensures their relevance across various design trends. Unlike bold or trendy colours that may date quickly, whites and light shades provide a classic backdrop that can be easily updated with changing decor elements. This versatility allows homeowners to experiment with different accents and accessories without committing to a permanent colour scheme.

Practical Applications and Tips

Implementing whites and light shades effectively requires careful consideration of various factors, including lighting, furnishings, and design goals.

1. Choosing the Right Shade

Not all whites are created equal. There is a broad spectrum of whites and light shades, ranging from stark whites to warm off-whites and cool greys. When selecting a white or light shade, consider the room's lighting conditions and the desired mood. For example, a warm white with subtle undertones of beige or cream can create a cosy, inviting atmosphere, while a cooler white with hints of blue or grey may lend a more contemporary, crisp feel.

2. Pairing with Other Colours

Whites and light shades serve as an excellent base for incorporating other colours. They act as a neutral canvas that can be complemented with bolder hues or patterns. For a balanced look, pair light shades with contrasting dark elements, such as dark wood furniture or bold accent pieces. Alternatively, create a cohesive scheme by using various shades of white and light colours throughout the space.

3. Considering Texture and Finish

The finish of the paint can significantly impact the final appearance of whites and light shades. Matte finishes offer a soft, subtle look, while gloss finishes reflect more light, enhancing brightness and creating a polished effect. For high-traffic areas or rooms prone to wear and tear, a semi-gloss or satin finish may be more practical due to its durability and ease of cleaning.

4. Incorporating Accents and Accessories

While whites and light shades provide a versatile foundation, incorporating accents and accessories can add depth and interest. Consider adding texture through textiles, such as cushions, rugs, or curtains, in varying shades and materials. Decorative elements like artwork, mirrors, and plants can also inject personality and vibrancy into a space dominated by lighter hues.

Challenges and Considerations

Despite their many advantages, whites and light shades are not without their challenges. One common issue is their tendency to show dirt, fingerprints, and imperfections more readily than darker colours. To mitigate this, choose highquality paints with durable finishes and consider using washable paints in hightraffic areas.

Another consideration is the potential for whites and light shades to appear stark or clinical if not paired thoughtfully with other design elements. To avoid this, incorporate a range of textures, patterns, and warm accents to create a balanced and inviting environment.

Whites and light shades offer a myriad of benefits in interior painting and decorating, from enhancing spatial perception to promoting a serene and timeless atmosphere. Their versatility and elegance make them a popular choice for many design schemes, providing a flexible backdrop for various styles and furnishings. By understanding the principles of colour reflection, texture, and pairing, homeowners and designers can effectively utilise whites and light shades to create beautifully balanced and functional living spaces.



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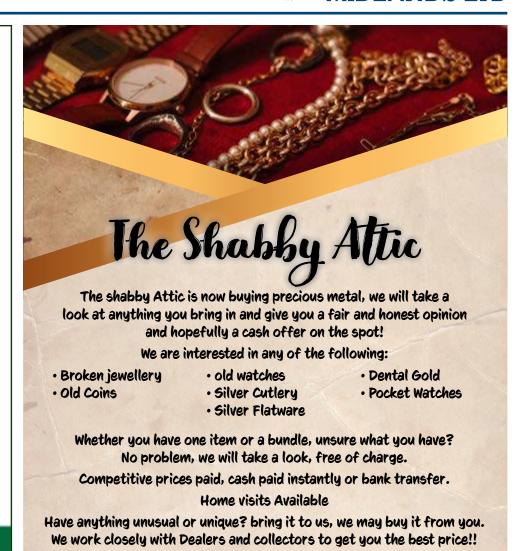
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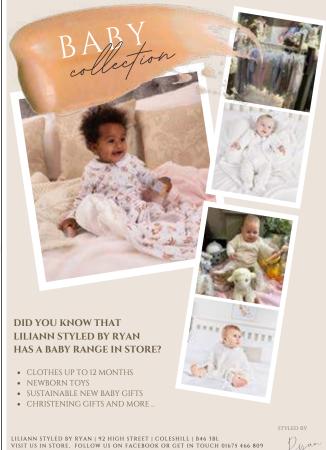
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Cars vs Canines and the **Evolution of Language**

When you are immersed in the dog world as much as I am, you see the changes, and this one is coming and is ramping up speed. The word owners is going out of fashion fast. Many dog trainers & pet professionals are choosing the words pet guardian, pet parent or family to describe what used to be

The shift started coming a while ago. Many people stopped seeing dogs as possessions, as something you owned, and said that these animals are sentient beings. They have emotions, and they feel things; they have a legal right to be cared for. The rest of the things we own are inanimate objects. This is different.



This month we had a scenario where we had our car breakdown on holiday. Now, I'll be honest: our car means a lot to me, and I have quite a strong emotional attachment to it. Many people's dream car is a sports car. My dream car as a child was a 4x4 full of dogs. (See image, I got to live my dream!) Also, we paid for some of it with money my grandad left us, who I adored, and he loved his cars. We had also recently lost Jim's Stepdad, who loved his four by fours. It felt very special. Fast forward to now, our car broke down on holiday, and after looking at lots of options, the best was to leave it in Wales to be fixed and hire a car so at least we could get Izzy and ourselves

The conversation Jim and I had coming home was, well, this is a massive pain. but we will take this 100 times over to when we had to leave Oscar at the vet, driving home without him after a

Several years ago we were on holiday with Oscar, Louis and Belle, when Oscar had a horrible accident and ended up with a broken leg. He ended up in the Cave which is like the Willows but in Devon. They told us he'd be in for 3 days and then back out. He had some awful complications and a dodgy immune system, and they were doing their best, but he was in their intensive care touch and go for several days. Even now, I feel sick writing about it; it was just horrid. We extended the 'holiday' (by then, it really wasn't feeling like one) to be near and visited him when we were allowed, but he was still in and not well enough to be discharged. Unfortunately, it got to the point where we had to come home with Louis and Belle, with Oscar still there. That journey, the emotions I can't describe. It was tough. Fortunately, on day 12, he was finally well enough to come home. We headed back to Devon and brought our beautiful boy home.

I think dogs are becoming more important and the norm as part of our families. I heard about a study recently saying a top consideration for millennials buying houses is the suitability for their dogs. I know several Insight Hounds members who have bought new cars because of their dogs or because they got

I'm not here to judge. If people want to call themselves owners or other people owners, they can; it's been around a long time. My prediction is that fast-forward a few more years, owners will be one of those words you add to the list to spend time over Christmas trying to explain to a relative why it's not appropriate for them to be saying it anymore.

For me, having left a broken car on holiday and having left a poorly dog, there are undoubtedly similarities. Both had an impact on the holiday, both we had to travel back to the holiday locations, and both cost a fortune. However, when I think about the emotions between the two, they are, without doubt, worlds apart. Even with an emotional attachment to our car, I'm certain, more than ever, that while we own our car, our dog is part of our



Birmingham Dogs Home - Forever homes



Ramsey Breed: Staffordshire **Bull Terrier Cross** Gender: Male (N)

Meet Ramsey, a charming Staffordshire Bull Terrier cross who is looking for a home to call his own.

Ramsey arrived at our centre as a stray, with his skin in poor condition, but with time and care, he's made great improvements

Ramsey is a friendly and happy boy, though he

can be a bit boisterous at times. He walks well on lead, showing potential for adventures with the right companion. While he hasn't shown much interest in toys during his stay with us, we believe that could change once he settles into a home environment.

Ramsey would thrive in a home with experienced adopters who are patient and willing to provide him with the training and attention he needs. Due to his past reactivity to other dogs, he would do best as the only dog in the home. Although he has shown significant improvement in this area such his watch me training and being called away with treats and toys, we have started muzzle trained as a precaution, this will need to be continued by new adopters.

Ramsey's exuberant nature makes him better suited for a family with older children ages 16 and above. He's a big boy with an even bigger heart, but his size and energy might be overwhelming for younger children.

Ramsey is eager to learn and is in need of basic manners training to curb behaviours like jumping up and humping. He also requires guidance in basic obedience. With the right guidance and consistency, Ramsey has the potential to become an obedient and well-mannered companion.

If you are interested in adopting, please contact the centre on 0121 643 5211 to enquire.

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We are a small but very busy home based rescue, run solely by volunteers. We are continually overrun with cats needing our help. We have lots of cats in the rescue but many of them are not ready for their forever homes as yet for various reasons including needing veterinary treatment such as neutering, ongoing health issues or being semi feral. If you are interested in rehoming a cat or want more information please email us with a contact number. address and who lives in your household. We can then contact you and inform you of any cats that may be suitable.



Smidge is a very shy cat who needs a nice quiet home to call her own.



Luna and her handsome son Felix need their forever home.



Jenny needs a forever home

Feral Cats

If any of our supporters own land or a farm with suitable outbuildings for feral cats to live we would love to hear from you please.

If you're looking to adopt a cat, or if you'd like to support the work of Ward End Cat Rescue, please visit our facebook page WARD END CAT RESCUE OFFICIAL or email us on wardendcatrescueofficial@outlook.com





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Chamber reveals shortlist for Greater Birmingham Young Professional of the Year Awards 2024





 $The \ winners \ of the \ Greater \ Birmingham \ Young \ Professional \ of the \ Year \ Awards \ 2023. \ Photo \ credit: Mr \ Ladd \ Mediant \ Awards \ 2023.$

The Future Faces division of the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce has announced the shortlist for the Greater Birmingham Young Professional of the Year awards.

The winners will be announced at the annual dinner and awards, taking place on Friday, 18 October at the ICC Birmingham. Sophie Poduval-Morrell, manager of Future Faces, said: "This year, we are proud to have shortlisted a record number of exceptional young professionals, each showcasing incredible talent, dedication, commitment and passion to the Greater Birmingham region. They are a testament to the bright future of our region's business."

Over 80 young professionals across wider Birmingham have been shortlisted for this year's awards, spanning across a wide range of sectors and professions.

The shortlist for this year's 13 categories is as follows:

Greater Birmingham Apprentice of the Year

Emily Berridge- Browne Jacobson LLP
Bradley Bolton- DP Building Systems
Santina Bunting- Arup
Mike Fahy- Claritas Tax Limited
Roshan Hamesh Paul- Claritas Tax Limited
Hannah Wright- Digital Innovators

GBYPY- Creative Arts & Culture

Sunjay Kohli- AAA Media Updesh Singh- Deutsche Bank Lucy Tranter- Birmingham Royal Ballet Dan Wharton- Ark Media Group

GBYPY- Digital, Technology & Innovation

Fay Elmi- Intercity Technology Grace Macwilliam- Mills & Reeve LLP Ileana Lupsa- TechUK Lewis Lydiard- Techcare Kiranjit Kaur Shergill- Barclays Charlotte Stanyer- Entec Si

GBYPY- Environmental, Social & Governance

Blu Hardy- Hardy Signs Charles Hughes- Canal & River Trust Alex Peart- KPMG LLP Katherine Stanfield- Jacobs

GBYPY- Events, Retail & Hospitality

Sarah Chin- Blackberry Events Money Chopra- Malmaison and Hotel Du Vin Christie Gaskin- Hilton Birmingham

Metropole
Emma Jones- AllinAll Events Ltd

Sophie Paolini- Albert's Schloss Sigita Pjampite- Unique Venues Birmingham

Charlotte Wheeler- City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Elise White- Aston University

GBYPY- Finance- sponsored by mfg Solicitors LLP

Jack Clews- Unity Trust Bank
Jay Dhaliwal- Chase de Vere
Faye Jacklin- Claritas Tax Limited
Nadia Johnstone-Smith- Quilter Cheviot
Financial Planning
Ash Karra- Forvis Mazars LLP
Katrania Lowers- Colmore Partners
Mark Pallet- City of Birmingham
Symphony Orchestra
Chris Ronan- EFG Harris Allday
GBYPY- Legal

Joel Blake- Wilkes LLP
Sarah Gale- Mills & Reeve LLP
Rebecca Horley- Shoosmiths LLP
Shereen Johal- Shoosmiths LLP
Kavita Mehey- Lawrence Kurt Solicitors
Grace Mullis- Irwin Mitchell LLP
Christie Nelson- Wilkes LLP
Vyara Yordanova- Mills & Reeve LLP

GBYPY- Property, Construction & Engineering- sponsored by Birmingham Metropolitan College

Aysha Bateman- West Midlands Combined Authority

Max Bambury- Tyto Contracting Ltd Ruby Dennis- Crown Highways Kaan Geundogdou- Ramboll Ben Stubbs- Crown Highways Natalie Wride- Mott MacDonald GRYPY- Paople & Wellbeing-

GBYPY- People & Wellbeingsponsored by PI-KEM

Ellie Dalton- Soteria Self Defence Hollie Dunster- City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Lakshman Ganatra- Evolving Families Charlie Pendlebury- Mills & Reeve LLP Amat Saeed- Canal & River Trust Iona Wolvers- Mitchells & Butlers

GBYPY- Sales, Marketing & Communication

Hope Adie- Colonel Duck
Sophie Allen- Serrano Media
Graham Allsopp- Ark Media Group
Clare Genner- Liquid
Thomas Newbold- Eleven Views
Rory Pickin- Rohlig UK Ltd
Katrina Raipuri- New Vine Marketing
Beth Sheldrick- Switch Management Ltd

GBYPY- Start-Up, Enterprise & Entrepreneurship- sponsored by Birmingham City University

Rosie Billington- Rosie Billington Alex Kyte- Build an Experience Ltd Aldi Mehmeti- Pawionic Shubham Parikh- Webosis Limited Harry Pegg- Helixx Industries Ltd Iveta Pudilova- Happy Autistic Lady

GBYPY- Not for Profit

Francesca Bagley- United by 2022 Charity
Natasha Ceres Chanda Johnson- St Basils
Amaan Dad- Our Community Foundation
Kerrie Henry-Edge- Birmingham Mind
Gracefilled Okeke- Feedo Needo
Zachariah Okusi- Sport 4 Life UK
Natalie Pursall- Birmingham Dogs Home
Maria Elena Roselli- YMCA- Heart of
England

GBYPY- Training & Education

Rachel Arnold- Solihull College & University Centre

Carolyn Burton- City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Paul Carbery- Arden Academy

Shuai Qin- Aston University

Jat Sidhu- Solihull College & University
Centre

Samantha Strong- Aston University
The overall winner from the sector
categories will be crowned the Greater
Birmingham Young Professional of the
Year 2024

There is also a bonus category: Future Faces President's Award, chosen by the Future Faces division's President, Kasim Choudhry.

Interviews for the shortlisted individuals will be taking place at the Library of Birmingham across the month of September.

www.greaterbirminghamchambers. com/event-calendar/greater-bypyawards-2024.html

for more information on tickets and sponsorship.

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Local Sports



Doyle sets 18 mountain bike challenge distances aiming for the 900th





It's been a tough twenty four days for former Paratrooper and ex RAF/Army reservist Paddy Doyle. Backed by his support team Doyle achieved five hard mountain bike distances carrying mountain bike instructor expedition kit weighing 46 lbs over the Pooley Park mountain bike course and footpaths North Warwickshire, his results were: 10 km 48 min 08 sec, 11 km 53 min 05 sec, 12 km 59 min 51 sec, 13 km 1 hr 06 min 33 sec, 16 km 1 hr 52 min 43 sec.

set a further thirteen mountain bike distances over a low technical course carrying 20 lbs of expedition kit finishing in the following times:
6 km 17 min 26.59 sec,
7 km 20 min 42.24 sec,
8 km 28 min 45.22 sec,
9 km 34 min 27 sec,

9.5 km 38 min 20 sec,

The next venue was

Warwickshire, were he

Rowington Village

19 km 1 hr 08 min 03 sec, 23 km 1 hr 18 min 32 sec, 25 km 1 hr 22 min 56 sec, 27 km 1 hr 35 min 36 sec, 28 km 1 hr 40 min 30 sec, 29 km 1 hr 47 min 22 sec, 30 km 1 hr 54 min 30 sec. On each of the marked permanent courses he had to lift the mountain bike over gates and stiles including short steep muddy bridleway inclines. "It was extra hard as I was

carrying injuries from one challenge to the next, but I blocked out the pain listened to my support team regarding changing gears and eating plenty of protein along the routes."

Doyle's overall total of career fitness endurance challenges and World Records is now 881, he hopes to reach the milestone of 900 sporting feats by the end of November.

Water Orton Bowling Club

All of our teams continue to have a successful season to date, Our B team in the Erdington Over 55's league are currently top of division three. In the East Birmingham Tuesday league our A team are currently top of division two and the A and B teams are both through to the cup final and will play each other in early September. In the East Birmingham Over 60's our A team are currently second in Division Two and a point behind the leaders. In the Thursday Sutton Benevolent league the B team have qualified for the cup Semi-Final and await the draw to find out their opponents.

On Sunday 21st July the club held a county game against a South Yorkshire side with representatives from our own club taking part in the match.

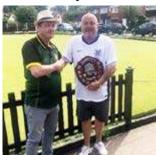
A large crowd was in attendance to witness some tremendous bowling which produced some challenging matches. Compliments were received from the league and all the bowlers on the excellent condition of the green and facilities provided on the day.

Internal club competitions continue to be run and on Sunday 14th July the club held its Handicap competition, the winner on the day was Mark Duxbury being presented with his trophy by Club Chairman Kevin Hackett.

The next competition on Sunday 4th August was a triples handicap competition, the winners were Keith Ford, Chris Baker and Phil Yate.

On Sunday 11th August the Ladies competition was held with Val Groves the winner on the day.

The next competition will be the Men's championship on Sunday 25th August.







During the season all leagues run Merit competitions for both single players or Pairs. This year in the East Birmingham Over 60's Pairs competition, three pairs from Water Orton qualified for finals that this year was held at Erdington Conservatives Club. Keith Hanley & Andrew Barnett, Paul Johnson & Gary Smith, and Richard Smith & Keith Price. Gary & Paul managed to get through to the final, but they unfortunately lost to the local pair from the Bradford Arms Steve Green & Mark Galvin (seen below). This year the Warwickshire Parks Veterans Merit Final was held at the Queslett PH in Streetly. Water Orton were represented by 2 players Kevin Hackett and Paul Johnson. Paul having played four matches on the day to reach the Final beating Kevin in the quarterfinals in a very tight game eventually winning 21-20. In the Final Paul was a convincing winner with a 21-3 win to lift the trophy, Paul is seen below with the trophy which he has retained this season, a feat which is rarely achieved.



For prices, media pack and more information Call 07805 430191 or email: serena.postgroup@outlook.com







We are always looking for new members, those who would like to play in a team or anyone that would like to take up social bowling so if you would like to try the game, we have equipment available for you to use during our free coaching sessions on a Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 PM.

If youre interested, please just call in or contact: Club captain - Paul Johnson (paul. wobc@gmail.com)



Water Orton Cricket Club Social Events



We have now finalised our social calendar for 2024 and we have some excellent entertainment booked for all our members, supporters and friends here at our village sports club. We hope you will be able to come and enjoy these fabulous nights with us, there's something for everyone.

Tickets are available about six weeks before these events from Pete Coles at the cricket club (07812 241046) Paul Messenger at the tennis club in Vicarage Lane (07538 601246) or from behind the bar in the cricket club.

Saturday 28th September Lionel Richie Tribute

With the fabulous Hamilton Browne. All the hits of The Commodores and Lionel Richie in a fantastic show.

Saturday 12th October The Rod Stewart Experience

With the great Garry Pease, back by popular request. Looks like him, dresses like him and sounds just like him.

Friday 18th October The Aston Villa Night

A question and answer evening with two Aston Villa Legends Des Bremner & Gary Shaw.

Saturday 19th October Quiz Night

Teams of 4/5/6 players.

Come and get your teams registered
by 7.45pm for an 8.00pm start.

Saturday 16th November Tina Turner Tribute

With the fabulous Millie Munroe. Great show, this lady is simply the best.

Saturday 30th November ABBA Tribute Show

This is a fabulous duo who are great to listen to and dance to. First time at our club, we have waited a long time to get these for a visit. Well worth waiting for.

Details of our special New Years Eve night will be announced very soon.

Water Orton & District Tennis Club Water orton & district tennis club

Our season is going well so far and we have had some really good league results to date.

Our Ladies team are doing very well and could yet win promotion into the Metropolitan First Division covering the Birmingham and Warwickshire areas. Some really good wins against clubs who have been around for a very long time.

Our Men's Team's are doing well considering this is only the second year some of the lads have experienced league tennis. It looks like we are well set up for the future which is looking good.

Our Juniors have some of the best young players we have had to date. We will be entering our junior/youth players into more open matches for all local clubs in the area, and first indications show that

we are well equipped to get some good results.

If anyone reading this would like to give tennis a try we still have some vacancies in our membership groups for Ladies and Juniors. Maybe you have played before but not for a few years in which case our qualified coaches would be happy to help you get you back into it. We also have an adult beginners group on a Monday night with a few vacancies. Its a fun session run by a qualified LTA Coach and would soon get you into tennis.

Come and give it a try, get yourself fit and make new friends, you would be very welcome.

For more details ring 07538 601246 and we can give you all the information you need.



Coleshill Town F.C.

FIXTURES: Pitching in Northern Premier League Midland Division

3.00pm kick off unless stated.

Saturday 24th August

Away to Walsall Wood.

Monday 26th August

Home to Sutton Coldfield Town.

Saturday 31st August

Away Mickleover. FA Cup. Game v Bedworth United to be rearranged.

Saturday 14th September

Home to Darleston Town

Saturday 21st September

Away to Hinckley LR

Saturday 28th September

Home to Wellingborough Town.

Saturday 5th October

Away to Grantham Town.

CTFC Match Reports

Saturday 3rd August

F.A. Cup Extra Preliminary Round Coleshill Town 0 v 0 Eastwood Community FC

Coleshill just couldn't break down a stubborn and well organised Eastwood team. The Colemen had the most of the few chances but it just wasn't their day and the contest had to go to a Replay.

Tuesday 6th August

F.A. Cup Extra Preliminary Round Replay

Eastwood CFC 1 v 3 Coleshill Town - After Extra Time

Another struggle as Eastwood once again restricted Coleshill to few chances. Captain Taylor Carter-Byrne headed Coleshill in front but they couldn't get a second goal that would have killed the game. Eastwood kept going and got their reward with a well taken free kick on 94 minutes, and so to Extra Time! Coleshill flew out of the box in the first half of Extra Time and goals from Josh Hesson and Maxwell Ngbeken quickly put them 3-1 up. Although Eastwood tried hard Coleshill saw out the game and progressed to the next round of the F.A. Cup.

Saturday 10th August

Midland Football League Midland Division

Coleshill Town 2 v 1 Loughborough Students

The young Students are always a very fit and well organised side and they showed this against Coleshill. The Students took the lead early in the second half with a soft penalty but Coleshill fought back and equalised through Josh Hesson and then went in front with their own penalty scored by Ben Billingham. The Colemen held on for a well earned three points.

Tuesday 13th August

Midland Football League Midland Division

Racing Club Warwick 1 v 0 Coleshill Town

Coleshill couldn't get into their stride and struggled to carve out chances. While Racing Club had few chances themselves they did take the lead on 10 minutes and did enough from that point to secure the win.

Saturday 17th August

F.A.Cup Preliminary Round Brocton 0 v 1 Coleshill Town

Brocton can consider themselves unlucky as they played really well and had the better of the few chances that appeared during the 90 minutes. in the 94th minute Coleshill were awarded a free kick just outside the box and Sam Fitzgerald stepped up and hit an almost perfect effort into the top corner of the net giving the home keeper no chance, and so secured a place in the next round for the Colemen.

Monday 19th August

Midland Football League Midland Division

Coleshill Town 3 v 2 Long Eaton United

A very entertaining game as two good sides went all out for the win. Ben Billingham scored a cracking solo goal on 14 minutes but on 34 mins the visitors scored a very impressive equaliser, a team effort. It looked like the teams would go to the break level but right at the end of the first half, that man, Sam Fitzgerald hit a fabulous volley into the top of the net. Coleshill made it 3-1 on the hour mark with Ben Billingham's second but Long Eaton scored to make it 3-2. It was end to end stuff but Coleshill held on for a very hard fought three points.

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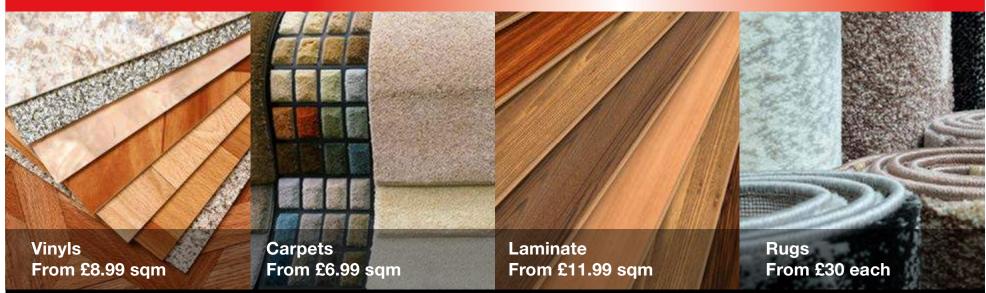
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